



consumer news

Office of Consumer Affairs
Executive Office of the President Virginia H. Knauer, Director

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Dear Consumer:

For over a year, we have been publishing CONSUMER NEWS to keep you informed about consumer programs of the Federal Government. We started last April with a 4-page newsletter once a month. In October, we began publishing 2 issues a month. In February, we added CONSUMER REGISTER as a supplement so that you would have more information on proposed Federal regulations—more information to enable you to participate in Federal consumer programming by making your views known to government agencies. With all these changes in CONSUMER NEWS, its subscription remained at \$1 a year.

Department of Economics
Donald Public Library
Room

But starting July 1, we must raise the price. Because of additional printing costs (24 issues of 6 pages each instead of 12 issues of 4 pages), Government Printing Office has determined that the subscription price must go to \$2. GPO has given assurance that this increase is within Price Commission guidelines.

Even so, we realize that \$2 is a substantial jump in price. But we hope you and your friends will continue to subscribe to CONSUMER NEWS. You can still subscribe for another year for \$1 if your subscription reaches GPO by June 30. Mail checks, payable to Supt. of Documents, to Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia H. Knauer".

Slicing through the bacon package problem

Consumers have been complaining for the past 5 years about the packaging of sliced bacon, according to Agriculture Dept. Consumers objected that too many packages had a cellophane window that showed only the lean portion of the bacon, which made it difficult—if not impossible—to judge the amount of fat in the product.

Because of such complaints, Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, urged bacon packers last summer to use packages that would allow consumers to see more of a slice of bacon. In December, Oscar Mayer & Co. considered the suggestion from Mrs. Knauer and consumers and announced that it would start using a bacon package with a rear window to show a major portion of a bacon slice. Early this year, other bacon packers started using packages that show more than just the top edges of slices.

Last month, Agriculture Dept. proposed a regulation to require bacon packers to give consumers a better view of sliced bacon. Under the proposal, packages of sliced bacon would have to be designed so that consumers could see the full width and at least 70% of the length of a "representative" slice of bacon.

Consumers may comment on the department's proposal for bacon packages to show a representative slice by writing to the Hearing Clerk, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 by June 20. Letters should state the consumer's name & address, the topic—bacon packages—and the consumer's views in favor of or against the proposal.

Summer '72: Avoid unnecessary use of electricity

Electric power shortages may threaten several areas of the nation this summer, according to George A. Lincoln, Chairman of the President's Joint Board on Fuel Supply & Fuel Transport. Inadequate electric generating capacity may cause power shortages in parts of the Midwest and the Atlantic Seaboard—especially the Carolinas and Florida. There is particular concern about blackouts and brownouts (a reduction in electric current) in New York, Chicago and Miami.

Lincoln, who also is Director of Office of Emergency Preparedness, said power shortages are possible because several new electric generating plants, scheduled to begin operation this summer, may be delayed because of construction, technical, licensing and environmental problems.

"Therefore," Lincoln said, "the joint board urges individual citizens, industry and government at all levels to reduce electric power use during peak load periods and to practice conservation measures in all uses of fuel and energy this summer."

The joint board is continuing its 3-part program, which began last year:

General Services Administration is heading the Federal Government's program to save energy in its own operations and to provide a conservation plan for state and local governments. The joint board's 10 regional field offices are coordinating Federal conservation measures and assisting state and local authorities in instituting similar programs and resolving problems.

Commerce Dept. is advising industry—with assistance of business associations and the trade press—of measures that should be taken to reduce power loads.

Office of Consumer Affairs is encouraging voluntary conservation of energy by consumers.

Virginia Knauer, OCA Director, said: "Energy conservation efforts by consumers may well mean the difference between full service or a blackout during long, hot spells in some areas of the country." Mrs. Knauer said that when consumers save electricity they also save money.

OCA and National Bureau of Standards have published a booklet *11 Ways to Reduce Energy Consumption & Increase Comfort in Household Cooling*, which is available for 30¢ from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Bureau recommends safer bikes

Representatives of major bicycle manufacturers have agreed to consider 8 safety recommendations by Food & Drug Administration's Bureau of Product Safety.

The following are the agency's recommendations to strengthen the industry's present voluntary safety standards:

- Additional light reflecting materials or devices are needed to make a bicycle not only visible in the dark but also identifiable as a bicycle.
- Pedals should have a high enough sliding friction to prevent rider's shoes from slipping.
- Gearshifts or other devices located on the horizontal bars of boys' bikes should be designed and located to minimize risk of injury.
- Seat post should be limited in length to prevent anyone from raising the seat to a height that would adversely affect the rider's control of the bicycle.
- Consideration should be given to the elimination of the front-wheel caliper brakes on bicycles equipped with rear-wheel coaster brakes, particularly bikes intended for younger riders.
- Caliper brake grips should be designed to accommodate the rider's handspan.
- The industry safety standard should include two-wheeled sidewalk bicycles and bicycles equipped with removable training wheels.
- No finished bicycle should bear raw, sharp or rough metal edges on any parts, including handle bars for which grips are provided.

Agency continues to ban hazardous toys

The following list names toys that Food & Drug Administration's Bureau of Product Safety banned in February, March & April because the toys were considered to be hazardous to children. The bureau says that in many cases the toys have been redesigned to eliminate the hazard and redistributed or dropped from the company's product line. The list comprises the generic or brand name of each toy, date of ban in parentheses, reason for ban and manufacturer or distributor:

"Miss Fashion" doll #10159, made in Hong Kong (3-22-72) sharp wires in legs.

Janco Industries Inc.
Ben Franklin Imports
New York

Toddlers' toys #265, 418 & 291 baby rattles; #162 suction baby rattle; trumpet-shaped baby rattle & hammer-shaped rattle #511; baby rattle #750—handle with a single disk (3-16-72, 3-24-72 & 4-7-72) small objects and/or sharp edges.

Stahlwood Toy Manufacturing
New York

"Another Beautiful Collette Doll" squeaker toy #K-7 (2-18-72) squeaker & eyes remove.

Collette Toy Novelty Co.
Long Island City, NY

Concert-table xylophone & keys on stand with 2 mallets, lot 653-1007, made in Japan (2-18-72) sharp edges of keys.

J.C. Penney Co.
New York

Vinyl squeeze toy styled as duck, patent #2629134; vinyl squeeze toy styled as bear, patent #2629134 (3-7-72) squeakers remove.

Sun Products Corp.
Barberton, OH

Melody xylophones, made in Japan & "Little Musicmaker" xylophone, made in Japan; sharp metal edges. Butterfly pull toy with balls & rattle, made in Hong Kong; sharp edges & small objects (2-18-72 & 3-24-72).

Thor Import Co.
Dallas

Merry-go-round musical ball made in Hong Kong (2-18-72) small objects & sharp points.

Lachman-Rose Co.
San Antonio

Sharps & Flats 23-key concert xylophone #48-37191, made in Japan (3-7-72) sharp edges.

Montgomery Ward
Chicago

Stuffed doll—12½" x 7½"—ballerina figure seated on rotating music box #2592 & stuffed doll—14" x 7"—seated on rotating music box #2591, made in Taiwan (3-23-72); pins in hair & clothing of dolls.

Baruch Petranker Importers
San Francisco

Plastic clown rattle with bell #618 & baby rattles with 3 big balls & 5 small balls #3031, made in Hong Kong (3-23-72) small objects.

Tidy Ties Corp.
Monroe, LA

"Noisemaker Bag" contains 12 pieces, made in Italy; squeakers remove. Assorted squeeze toys: deer, elephant, rooster, horse & man straddling horse—labeled in part as "John,"—made in West Germany; squeakers remove. Hollow hammer with green handle & pink head containing beads; small objects. Yellow-haired doll in yellow robe; sharp wire in neck of doll. Lili doll "300, made in Italy; sharp straight pins holding cap. Soldier doll—labeled in part as "Squeeze Figure With Whistle Sound"—made in Spain; squeaker removes. (3-24-72).

F.W. Woolworth Co.
New York

Dutch-Boy doll & Renoir doll (3-23-72) straight pins used to hold hats.

Alexander Doll Co.
New York

Vinyl toy rabbit with long furry ears #A5026, made in Japan (3-20-72) sharp wires in ears.

Creative Creations
Hicksville, NY

Cricket clicker noisemakers: yellow #34-D & orange #34-H (3-22-72) sharp metal edges.

U.S. Metal Toy Mfg. Co.
Brooklyn, NY

"New Piaphone" xylophone-type toy, made in Japan (3-23-72) sharp metal key edges.

S.H. Kress Co.
New York

"Moon" spin top & plastic & metal "LBZ" automatic choral top Style #752/30 Straco, made in West Germany (3-22-72) small objects & rigid metal rods.

F.J. Strauss Co.
New York

Whirlee suction rattle #618—old style (3-20-72) small objects.

Sanitoy Inc.
Palisades Park, NJ

Party favor—figures & a box of candles—labeled in part "Happy Home . . . Woolworths . . ." made in Hong Kong (3-22-72) sharp wires in feet of largest figure.

Unique Industries
Philadelphia

Black & white cat with wired tail #001-243-5; sharp wire in tail. Clown mouse toy, Steiff 4308.5; sharp straight pin. Dancing mechanical doll labeled in part "Dancing Dolls . . . Lanz-Puppen;" sharp winding stem protrudes. Brown bear in Scottish kilt & hat, Steiff 0202/26; sharp straight pins holding hat. Grey, silver-tipped arrows with orange & white feathers made in West Germany; adult item sold in toy store with inadequate labeling (3-24-72).

F.A.O. Schwarz
New York
Spin top "LBZ" 42 DBGM 7763 1 PC made in West Germany (3-22-72) small pieces, sharp edges & rigid metal shaft.

Block House Inc.
New York

Arkin "OK" infant suction baby rattle #300/F622, made in Hong Kong (3-23-72) small objects.

Arkin A-OK Products
Detroit
Merry rattle #732—bell shape, made in Japan; Creative Action rattle #156, made in Hong Kong (3-23-72) small objects.

Bomar Co., Division of Kiddie Products Co.
Squantum, MA

Dancing St. Patrick doll #T-375—7—made in Japan (3-20-72) sharp wires in extremities.

A.A. Importing Inc.
Willoughby, OH
"Dream Bride" doll #K2082 (3-24-72) sharp pins holding veil.

Eugene Doll Co.
New York

Infant teething rattle #288—bird-shaped with long stem labeled in part "Look Mom It's . . . Binky"—made in Hong Kong (3-23-72) small objects.

Binky Baby Products
Wallington, NJ
"Protecto Shake-Me Toy" infant rattle #381, made in Hong Kong (3-24-72) small objects.

Reliance Products Corp.
Woonsocket, RI
Toy tambourine with 5 sets of double tin disks (3-23-72) sharp metal edges on disks.

Reed Toys Inc.
West Conshohocken, PA
Continued next page

New Federal publications

Consumer Product Information (an index of selected Federal publications on how to buy, use & take care of consumer products), published by Consumer Product Information Coordinating Center, free from Consumer Product Information, Washington, DC 20407.

The following publications are available at U.S. Government Printing Office Bookstores or by ordering from Manager, Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19120. When ordering, make checks payable to Supt. of Documents.

Consumer Legislative Monthly Report (cumulative listing of consumer bills before Congress with a report on their status and a description of each consumer act passed by Congress and signed by the President); published by the Office of Consumer Affairs; annual subscription \$5.

Food Guide for Older Folks (Home & Garden Bulletin No. 17), published by Agriculture Dept.; stock no. 0100-1515, 20¢

Toy list (continued)

Jumping rabbit with baby rabbit, made in Japan; sharp metal edges. Hopping bunny #3235, made in Japan; sharp metal edges & wires. Stuffed rabbit #37/74/79, made in Japan, sharp wires. (4-6-72).

New York Merchandising Co.
Dallas

Stuffed orange/brown rabbit with bouquet labeled in part: "Snuggly Midget Zoo Original . . . Designed by Evan" (4-6-72); sharp wires in bouquet.

Atlanta Novelty Mfg. Corp.
New York

Squeeze toy #2170B mouse with cheese, made in Taiwan (4-6-72) squeaker removes.

Childhood Interest/Alan Jay
Roselle Park, NJ

Doll in chair with plastic dress #14/14, made in Hong Kong (4-6-72) flammable plastic dress.

Esco Imports of Texas Inc.
San Antonio

Multi-colored "Musical Merry-Go-Round" #7171 & 808, made in Japan (4-7-72) small objects & rigid metal rod.

Blatt Distributing Co.
La Mirada, CA

Accordion squeaker toys styled as bird, dog & duck—about 7" high—made in Hong Kong (4-6-72) squeakers remove.

Easter Unlimited, Fun World
New York

Little Musicmaker xylophone #5703, made in Japan (4-6-72) sharp metal edges & nails.

Larami Corp.
Philadelphia

"Toddly Toy" assortment package #3-89-40 containing ABC Chain Rattle #5/517, Play Bells #6/497 & "Baby Toy" rattle, made in Hong Kong (4-7-72) sharp edges & small objects of Play Bells & "Baby Toy" rattle.

Star Manufacturing Co.
Leominster, MA

Petite Fashion doll #2350 & Pettie—11 1/2"—Modern Miss of Fashion #N1230, made in Hong Kong (4-5-72) sharp wires.

L.J.N. Toys Ltd.
New York

Butterfly pull toy #4200 with balls & rattle noise, made in Hong Kong (4-6-72) small objects.

Tak-A-Toy
Hyattsville, MD

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